

Matamata Camera Club

May 2015 Critiques

Judge: Mark Brimblecombe (President, Wanganui Camera Club)

The great 20th century American photographer Walker Evans said that style is signature. So what is the style/signature of a photographer or artist? There are two ways of approaching this competition:

(A) You can either simply copy the style of a well-known photographer or artist

(B) You can attempt to understand the historical/social/aesthetic conditions which influenced the photographer or artist and factor that into your work, so that what you come up with is a personal update of what that photographer or artist achieved. Title Comments Grade Award



Theme - In the Style of A Grade

Peter Bush 1

Excellent sports photography using a long lens. Well framed images. I think that any good rugby photo is going to be 'in the style of Peter Bush' I'm not sure then that Peter Bush has a 'signature' or 'style' with his rugby photography that sets him apart from other rugby photographers... other than being in the right place at the right time!

Robbo

Merit



Peter Bush 2

See above comments. A better composition than the above image. Sharp and well exposed.

Robbo

Highly Comm



In the style of Constable

In itself this is a lovely photo and composition. Constable was mostly a painter of landscapes (which this photo is not), though his 'Study of the Trunk of an Elm Tree' is very similar to this photo. Good exposure, beautiful light. Could do with more blacks.

Cushla

Merit



In the style of Van Gogh

Cushla

I'm not sure how this photograph is 'in the style of' Vincent Van Gogh. It lacks the intensity of colour and impressionistic style of Van Gogh. The portrait may bear some resemblance to Van Gogh himself... showing his left ear rather than the 'self-mutilated' right ear.

Accepted



In the style of Van Gough Composition

Sue

This image is reminiscent of Van Gogh's 'Starry Night' painting with the swirly clouds. Very clever manipulation of a photograph to emulate the artist's style, however this is done to the degree that it is no longer recognisable as a photograph. I believe that a good photograph of anything needs to be distinctively a photograph and not a painting.

Accepted



In the style of Van Gough – Sunflowers

Sue

This is a very good 'copy' of Van Gogh's sunflower paintings. My comments about the earlier image do not apply to this image where it is much more evident that the image is a photograph. Very good lighting and saturation of colour in this image too.

Merit



Karl Bossfieldt

Carl

This flower image is a very good 'in the style of Karl Blossfield', especially being in monochrome and because of the composition and lighting of the subject. The slight warm tint on the photo is very good too.

Merit



Lara Platman

I've seen the monochrome photos that Lara Platman has shot with a Leica M9 Monochrome camera and processed in Silver EFEX Pro 2. I use that software myself for great effect, but sadly don't have an M9. This photo is a very good black and white image. I simply have not seen enough of Platman's work to recognise her style in this photo. Perhaps some similarity to the Nurburgring 24 hours B&W portfolio on her website. Very nice photograph and a very strong composition. Well processed. Lots of wonderful interest with the people in this photo.

Carl

Honours



B Grade

In the style of Guy Griffiths Car 25

The camera technique used here (slow shutter speed and panning to 'freeze' the action) is the same as was used by Guy Griffiths for his many famous photos of racing cars in the 1950s. The 'vintage' racing car in these two images also matches the era. The car 48 photo is better exposed and the car is sharper.

Brie

Merit



In the style of Guy Griffiths car 48

See above

Brie

Highly Comm



Redoute Rose / Pierre Joseph

These two rose 'photos' are superb 'in the style of Bedouste's rose paintings'. Many of his paintings are actually more vibrant in colour, but these two are superb for their antiquated and watercolour look. I especially love the second image with movement or DOF blur in the two closest leaves (making this a photograph and not a painting) and the wonderful detail in the rose flower. I would love to see a higher resolution image of this photo (Note: we have abandoned all DPI sizing rules here at the Wanganui Camera Club!)

Liz

Highly Comm



Second Redoute Rose

**Liz
Honours**

C Grade



Inspired by Karsh

Geoff

The photographic style here is certainly NOT Karsh's dramatic and contrasty lighting. Most of Karsh's portraits are also of individuals with a few 'royal' couple shots. Most also use studio lighting. Well the title says 'inspired'... but the set subject is 'in the style of'. Very nice monochrome portrait of this couple, conveying emotion and feelings. **Accepted**



Ryan & Naomi (by a Birchan student)

Geoff

This photo appears to have the same two subjects as the previous image. Not sure of the title and whose style this photograph emulates. Nice portrait and use of fill in flash. Good colour exposure. Would have 'performed' better in the 'Open' category. **Accepted**



Sea bird resting, Rod Morris

Mary

This is a very good bird photograph... Sharp and well exposed. Good shallow DOF to isolate the bird from the background too. Very well done as a photograph. I have the same problem determining a style for this bird photograph (Rod Morris) as I do for good sports photographers. Technique is not to be confused with personal style. The same should be said of genre too. **Highly commended**



Standing Still, John Shaw

AP

The 'stylistic' comment for the previous photo applies here too. I don't see John Shaw in this photo. Having said that... this is a beautiful photograph, well-conceived and executed. Great use again of shallow DOF. All great colour photos are in my opinion great colour compositions too.... and this is one of those **Highly commended**



Wanderer, John Shaw

AP

Interesting image and composition... which in my opinion would be better as a square. Very appealing image.

Merit



Winter feast, Rod Morris

Mary

Well captured and composed photograph of this bird. Perhaps not quite sharp enough and focused on the eye. A good documentary ornithological photo like any other good bird photograph.

Merit



**Open
A Grade**

Take My Photo

Robbo

This is an unconventional composition which I think works well because of the square aspect ratio. Very good colour composition too... warm colours top left, cool colours bottom right. The handbag held by the photographer balances the picture well.

Highly Comm



Day 10

Cassandra

A very good high-key baby photo. Lovely soft tones and textures throughout – naturally. I think a little more diagonal angle for the subject would be good... I'm wanting to tilt my head to get a better look at the face.

Highly Comm



Flames

Cushla

Another interesting composition with lots of lovely black 'negative space'. Good use of slow shutter speed for movement in the flickering flames.

Merit



Flight at First Light

Carl

A beautiful colour photograph and a very strong balanced composition. This is my choice for the image of the month.

Honours



Free Falling

Sue

Beautiful sharp image with good use of shallow DOF and bokeh. The contrast in the image is probably just right... though I wonder if it would be improved by lifting the highlights and lowering the darkest areas (to black).

Merit



B Grade

Crack of Dawn

Brie

Nice foreground in this silhouette, with reflection in the water.

Merit



Balloon Watching

Elaine

Very good photo because of the inclusion of the observers (and photographers). Very good camera exposure. I feel that a little more could be shaved off the top of the image.

Highly Comm



Lighthouse

Liz

This is a simple and strong composition which I find very appealing. The boat and its mast could be cloned out. I think there needs to be a vertical lens correction (see develop mode in LR)... as the building appears to be vertical but the horizon is not level. Colour temperature is spot on. Love the red lines (top right) in this composition.

Highly Comm



Nearly Three

Amanda

Beautiful black and white image... superbly processed. Sharp and well composed... and posed. I'm not sure about the title, as I think it robs the viewer of the opportunity to discover. I would clone out the darker stalks on the right edge of the photo. This photograph communicates well. **Honours**



Simba Takes Flight

Sonya

Very interesting photo, with lovely back lighting. Processed well to lift the shadow detail. I feel that just a tad more on the bottom to include more feet would 'ground' the image.

Highly Comm



C Grade

Young Love

Geoff

The composition is very good with this photo. However it is an almost impossible exposure situation to shoot in with the subjects in shadow and the background being so bright. Not even the fill in flash could cope with this I think. I would have approached this challenge by only slightly over exposing the background in the camera and then seeing if my flash had enough grunt to fill in the shadow areas.

Merit



Sandfly Bay

Mary

Good exposure and composition for this landscape photograph. Cropping a little off the top of the image (and so also removing the lens vignette) and levelling the horizon would enhance the image.

Merit



Wairere Wild Spring

AP

Lovely tranquil bush and stream scene, with movement in the water. The greens are about the right colour too. Good composition... I wonder if a little off the top and the left (maintaining the aspect ratio) would enhance it more.

Highly Comm



Pink Daisy

Maya

Very good exposure and colour in this photo. Also very good shallow DOF to isolate the flower from the background. If you are going to place the subject in the middle of the frame I suggest that a square aspect ratio for the photo will work much better.

Merit

Image of the Month is: Flight at First Light

If there was a runner up to this, it would for me have been the motorcycle image 'Lara Platman'